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(54) **METHOD AND DEVICE FOR BANDWIDTH ALLOCATION IN MULTIPLE ACCESS PROTOCOLS WITH CONTENTION-BASED RESERVATION**

(75) **Inventors:** Whay Chlou Lee, Cambridge, MA (US); Firass Abi-Nassif, Medford, MA (US)

(73) **Assignee:** Motorola, Inc., Schaumburg, IL (US)

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(58) **Field of Search** 370/442, 443, 370/445, 447, 448, 458, 461, 462, 468, 477

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Primary Examiner—Douglas Olms

Assistant Examiner—Bob A. Phunkulh

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Paul F. Bawel

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The problem of allocating bandwidth on the upstream channel of an HFC cable network for contention-based transmission of requests that are used to reserve upstream bandwidth for transmission of user data is solved by a method of allocation which dynamically adapts to the prevailing offered load of reservation requests. In one embodiment this is done by determining an appropriate size for a contention interval in each upstream transmission frame by attempting to balance the rates of flow of user data into and out of a virtual global data queue using a fluid approximation method that is based on a solution to a balanced equation relating the demand and supply of slots for data transmission within each frame.

15 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets

